

John 1:1-9
Starting Right Here



January 3, 2021
2nd Sunday after Christmas
First Presbyterian Church

1315 Central Avenue
Great Falls, Montana 59401
(406) 453-1411

Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.

www.firstpresgfmt.org

secretary@firstpresgfmt.org

 firstpresgfmt

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*God of the Ages, we offer you our hearts, anew with this new year.
Help us love you and our neighbors all year long, one day at a time.*

Happy New Year! **Welcome** to worship, one and all. Greetings; the peace of Christ be with you. With voices full of excitement, attitudes full of enthusiasm, and spirits full of joy let us actively give our worship to God.

Be sure to check-in through **Social Media** or text message to let your family members, friends and followers know you are here to praise God. And like us on Facebook.

Please use the time before worship begins to prepare yourself for your **offering of worship** to God. Feel free to listen to music; read and meditate on the Scripture reading for today; or silently meditate on God's grace, emptying your mind of all distractions.

Alissa Brown is preaching today while John is on Study Leave.

All music copied and projected with permission, CCLI #2716126, OneLicense A-722348.

* Please stand as able

*We are the Body of Christ
Joyfully Worshiping God
Compassionately Caring for One Another
Humbly Serving God
Continually Growing Together in God's Word
And Actively Sharing the Good News of Christ*

May our worship be pleasing to God!

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

Prelude

Fanfare, Henry Purcell

Welcome

*Call to Worship (Leader **People**)

Adapted from Psalm 8

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.

When we consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place...

Who are we that you are mindful of us?

Creator of Heaven and Earth, thank you for creating us and loving us in a way that knows no limits.

We acknowledge you as Lord and praise you for all of creation.

Holy Spirit, we welcome you in this time of praise and worship.

Please, Lord, shape us and mold us into the disciples of Jesus Christ that you are calling us to be.

*Hymn of Praise #611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*Call to Confession (Leader **People**)

God of grace, you call us to wash and be clean,

but we are proud.

You offer us a simple solution to our disease,

but we think we are important enough for wonders and grand acts.

In those times when our pride blocks our sight of your graciousness,

wash the scales from our eyes, that we may see.

For those times we grow too sure of our own importance,

forgive us.

*Prayer of Confession (**Unison**)

Dear God,

**we confess that we have sinned
and need your forgiveness.**

**We want to do things on our own,
without you.**

**We have been distracted from your Word
and behave as if your instructions were vague.**

**We are unworthy of your grace
and undeserving of your forgiveness.**

We've failed you once again.

God,

thank you for being merciful.

Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us.

May we experience the Spirit's presence more clearly every day.

Give us the focus to follow your Word and your ways.

Show us the way to your Kingdom and your grace.

Help us when we're in trouble

and guide us away from the darkness of this world.

Show us what you want us to do.

In Jesus' name...

(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)

*Assurance of Forgiveness (Leader **People**)

The good news in Christ

is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need,

we are given grace to grow,

and courage to continue the journey.

Friends,

believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*Praising God for God's Forgiveness #581

Glory Be to the Father

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

Were You There on that Christmas Night, Natalie Sleeth

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

John 1:1-9

Starting Right Here

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Affirmation of Faith (Leader **People**) The Heidelberg Catechism, 4.035, 4.016, 4.017
In the Apostles' Creed, what does it mean that Jesus "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?

That Jesus, the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might also become David's true descendant, like his brothers and sisters in every way except for sin.

Why must Jesus be a true and righteous human?

God's justice demands that human nature, which has sinned, must pay for sin; but a sinful human could never pay for others.

Why must Jesus also be true God?

So that, by the power of his divinity, Jesus might bear the weight of God's wrath in his humanity and earn for us and restore to us righteousness and life.

*Hymn of Response #192

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Offering

Sonata in D Major, Domenico Scarlatti (K. 288)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13, KJV, Traditional)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.**

Amen.

SENDING FOR SERVICE

*Sending Hymn #547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

*Charge (Leader **People**)

We are the Body of Christ;

Joyfully worshiping God,

compassionately caring for one another,

humbly serving others,

continually growing together in God's Word,

and actively sharing the Good News of Christ.

*Blessing

*Postlude

Rondeau, Joseph Mouret

May our service be pleasing to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tithes and Offerings may be mailed to the church office or made online through our website, www.firstpresgfmt.org.

As the session continues to discuss the budget for 2021, be on the lookout for the 2021 **Stewardship Brochure and Pledge Card** coming soon!

Our times of worship are **live-streamed** on our YouTube channel; search for “First Presbyterian Church Great Falls MT” on the YouTube website. Recordings of previous live-streams will remain on our YouTube channel. Links to upcoming live-streams can be found on our website and in the weekly Saturday morning email.

Mid-Week Ministry returns Wednesday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m. Up to now, they have been eating take-out pizza and sandwiches. If individuals, committees or groups would like to help with dinners, they could provide full or partial meals. A group could provide most of the items on the menu, or individuals could bring cooked hamburger in 1-pound bags, ready to use or be frozen for future use. Menu suggestions are available. This would be a BIG help! Questions?? Call Sara Buley, 406-788-3370, or Alissa Brown, 406-231-2348. Thank you!

Sailboat Church embarks today for an 8-week journey. Climb aboard and join us on a journey that will help us rethink our mission and practice as a congregation. The Sailboat Church is a time for us as a congregation, as well as individuals, to open ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, giving us the power to move into the future as the disciples of Jesus God is calling us to be. The more of us who participate, the better. Let the office know if you have not received a book. Also, if you have not yet signed up for a small group discussion crew, call the office to do so. Crews are scheduled for Sundays at 11:30 a.m.; Mondays at 9:30 a.m.; Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.; Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.; Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.; Fridays at 4:00 p.m.; and Saturdays at 1:00 p.m.

While we welcome those who wish to join us for worship in the **sanctuary** on Sunday mornings, please be reminded of the precautions the session has put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic: seating in the sanctuary is limited as we honor the 6 feet of social distancing; everyone’s temperature will be checked upon entering the building; masks are required while in the building; pew supplies have been removed; singing is prohibited; bulletins will be available after worship when exiting the building; prolonged socializing in the building is discouraged; gloves, masks, and hand sanitizer are readily available.

If you are not receiving **emails**, including the Saturday morning “Church Update”, please send your current email address to the office, secretary@firstpresgfmt.org.

Souler Energy, our weekly Sunday Worship broadcast, can be viewed every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on KFBB TV Channel 5 (cable channel 9).

The session has called a **congregational meeting** to elect officers on Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. For those interested, John will host three “training/practice” sessions: Thursday, January 7 at 3:30 p.m.; Friday, January 8 at 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday, January 9 at 11:00 a.m. To join from your computer, tablet or smart phone use this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4911010646?pwd=azRJamU5dFRFdTdXU3R5Um1UZ09wZz09>. You can type it into your browser, or if you need it emailed to you let John or the office know. Then just click on the link. To call in on a landline or non-smart cell phone use any of these phone numbers. (346-248-7799) (669-900-6833) (253-215-8782) (312-626-6799) (929-205-6099) (301-715-8592) They are not toll free, and while you can hear and speak, there will be no video. You will be asked to enter the Meeting ID (491 101 0646) and the Passcode (406884). The nominating committee will nominate the following:

Elder Class of 2021

Sharon Lindstrom

Gary McFerrin

Elder Class of 2023

Jane Snowberger

Jennie Yates.

Deacon Class of 2021

Shirley Davis

Deacon Class of 2023

Dave Herman

Barb Flaherty

COMING WORSHIP THEMES

Next Sunday, January 10, 2021

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Communion

Key Biblical Appearance of the Holy Spirit

January 17, 2021

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Attributes of the Holy Spirit

January 24, 2021

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Works of the Holy Spirit

January 31, 2021

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom Unless Noted

Today, Sunday, January 3	John is on Study Leave through Wednesday Sailboat Church Embarks
	8:15 a.m. Illuminating Advent Class
	10:00 a.m. Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
	11:30 a.m. Sailboat Church Crew 1
Monday, January 4	9:30 a.m. Sailboat Church Crew 2
Tuesday, January 5	12:00 noon Souler Energy Committee
	7:00 p.m. Sailboat Church Crew 3
Wednesday, January 6 (Epiphany)	Sailboat Church Guide to 40 Days of Prayer – Day 1
	7:00 a.m. Men’s Group
	6:00 p.m. Mid-week Ministry
Thursday, January 7	Sailboat Church Guide to 40 Days of Prayer – Day 2
	10:00 a.m. Sailboat Church Crew 5
	11:00 a.m. Illuminating Advent Class
	3:30 p.m. Zoom Training/Practice for Congregational Meeting
	5:00 p.m. Worship Committee
Friday, January 8	Sailboat Church Guide to 40 Days of Prayer – Day 3
	4:00 p.m. Sailboat Church Crew 6
	5:30 p.m. Zoom Training/Practice for Congregational Meeting
Saturday, January 9	Sailboat Church Guide to 40 Days of Prayer – Day 4
	9:30 a.m. PW
	11:00 a.m. Zoom Training/Practice for Congregational Meeting
	1:00 p.m. Sailboat Church Crew 7
Next Sunday, January 10	Sailboat Church Guide to 40 Days of Prayer – Day 5
	10:00 a.m. Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
	11:30 a.m. Called Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers
	11:30 a.m. Sailboat Church Crew 1

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom Unless Noted

- Tuesday, January 12..... Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 13 River Readers, 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, January 14..... Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
- Tuesday, January 19..... Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, January 24..... Children & Youth Ministries Committee, 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, January 26..... Board of Deacons Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 2..... Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
- Thursday, February 4..... Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m.

The Officers and Staff of First Presbyterian Church welcome you
to this time of worship and invite you to join us in ministry!

Head of the Church

Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior

Session

John Ritchie (Moderator)

Ginger Blevins
Alissa Brown
Jan Brown

Sara Buley
Rees Davies
Dave Dobbs

Mary Fagenstrom
Kathy Herman
Randy Houtz (Clerk)

Scott Royce
Dean Schamp

Deacons

Stuart Brown
Bruce Buer (Mod.)
Kitty Cornwell

Shirley Davis
Tom Hazen
Dave Herman

Chris Pfof
Deb Skinner

Robb Sparks
Marla Wilckens

Staff

Rev. John E Ritchie, Pastor (906-322-9490)

Alissa Brown, CE Director

Joan Schmidt, Ministry of Music

Craig Anton, Facilities Manager

Keyna Myers, Office Manager

Faith Janes, Publications Secretary

Liza Nosich, Accounts Payable/Payroll
Financial Secretary

Butch Steele, Worship Video Coordinator

Alex Rosenleaf, Choir Director

Kari Rosenleaf, Bell Choir Director

Johnny Ritchie, Music Assistant & Praise
Band Director

Epiphany Epiphanies Sometimes brief words of ancient wisdom can spark an “aha!” moment – a revelation of new insight about God or faith. Here are some epiphanies for the *season* of Epiphany.

“If we approach with faith, we too will see Jesus ... for the Eucharistic table takes the place of the crib. Here, the Body of the Lord is present, wrapped not in swaddling clothes but in the rays of the Holy Spirit.”

—St. John Chrysostom (347-407)

“So that we might also have the means to go, the one we were longing to go to came here from there. And what did he make? A wooden raft for us to cross the sea on. For no one can cross the sea of this world unless carried over it on the cross of Christ.”

—St. Augustine (354-430)

“You wish to see; listen. Hearing is a step toward vision.”

—St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)